

REMARKS

Claims 3-6, 8-13, 15-36, 38-45, and 47-61 are currently pending in the application. Claim 3, 15, 38, and 53 are in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, and 14 are provisionally rejected under 35 USC § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 5, and 6 of co-pending Application No. 10/122,611. These claims have been canceled in order to further prosecution. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 46 stand rejected under 35 USC § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 7 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,200,546. These claims have been canceled without prejudice thereby rendering the present rejection moot. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 15, and 38 have been amended to be in independent form as suggested in the Office Action.

In view of the present amendment and foregoing remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and advancement of the case to issue are respectfully requested.

USSN 09/847,134
Attorney Docket No. 0994.00131

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 11-1449.

Respectfully submitted,

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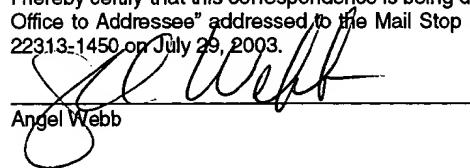
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